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AMMANFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Medical Officer of
Health's
REPORT
For 1965**

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Jones and Mainwaring (Printers) Ltd., Ammanford

AMMANFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. G. M. HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

Mr. W. DAVIES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant :

Miss ANN LLEWELYN,

AMMANFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

AMMANFORD,

October, 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Walters and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my fourteenth Annual Report for the year ending December, 1965.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimated populations figure reverted to the usual pattern of past years of an annual drop, after a slight increase in 1964.

Public Health in the area was generally good and apart from a few cases of measles there were not infectious diseases, other than one new case of Tuberculosis. The incidence of all forms of respiratory disease was lower than in 1964 and cancer took second place to heart diseases as the chief cause of death.

The second part of this Report has, this year, been prepared by Mr. Davies (who commenced his duties as Public Health Inspector in March, 1965). I wish to take this opportunity of thanking him for his ready assistance and co-operation in the work of the Department, and also the other Members of the Staff and the Council for their continued interest and support in the work of the Health Department.

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. HERBERT.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	944 Acres
Population (mid-year 1965)	...	...	6,200
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	1,959

Number of dwellings completed in the Urban during 1965:—

(a) By the Council	...	...	12
(b) By Private Building	...	...	4
Rateable Value	...	...	£84,183
Net Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£726

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births — 75 Births were registered during the year, compared with 82 last year.

			M.	F.	Total
Live Births — Legitimate	...	...	43	31	74
Illegitimate	...	...	1	0	1
			—	—	—
			44	31	75
Still Births — Legitimate	...	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Total Live and Still Births :—					
Legitimate	...	...	44	31	75
Illegitimate	...	...	1	0	1
			—	—	—
			45	31	76

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births :—

Ammanford	...	...	1.35
Carmarthenshire	...	...	4.29
England and Wales	...	...	—

Birth rate per 1,000 Population :—

Ammanford	...	...	12.09
Carmarthenshire	...	...	14.17
England and Wales	...	...	18.1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births) :—

Ammanford	...	...	13.16
Carmarthenshire	...	...	17.10
England and Wales	...	...	—

INFANT DEATHS.

This year again there were no infant deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Perinatal (Still Births and Infant Deaths under 1 week):—

Ammanford	...	...	...	...	22.22
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	...	30.44
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	—

Early Neonatal — Deaths during 1st Week:—

Ammanford	...	...	...	...	0.0
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	...	13.58
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	—

Neonatal Deaths under 4 weeks :—

Ammanford	...	...	...	...	0.0
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	...	16.12
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	13.0

Under 1 year :—

Ammanford	...	...	...	...	0.0
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	...	22.49
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	19.0
Wales ...	...	...	...	...	20.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY

This year there were no deaths from Pregnancy or Child-birth.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births :—

		England and
Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	Wales
0.0	0.0	—

DEATHS — ALL CAUSES.

There was an increase in the number of deaths this year to 110 compared with 89 in 1964.

CAUSES OF DEATHS in 1965.

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis	2 ...	2 ...	4
Diphtheria	0 ...	0 ...	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0 ...	0 ...	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2 ...	0 ...	2
Cancer	12 ...	15 ...	27
Vax. lesions of Nervous System ...	1 ...	7 ...	8
Coronary Disease, Angina	14 ...	11 ...	25
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	0 ...	3 ...	3
Other Heart Diseases	3 ...	5 ...	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	4 ...	4 ...	8
Influenza	0 ...	0 ...	0
Pneumonia	0 ...	0 ...	0
Bronchitis	3 ...	0 ...	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	6 ...	1 ...	7
Peptic Ulcer	1 ...	0 ...	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1 ...	0 ...	1
Bephritis and Nephrosis	1 ...	0 ...	1
Congenital Malformations	0 ...	1 ...	1
Suicide	0 ...	0 ...	0
Other Ill-defined Diseases	3 ...	6 ...	9
Motor Accidents	1 ...	0 ...	1
All Other Accidents	0 ...	1 ...	1
	<hr/> 54	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 110

In the total deaths — 65% were males; and
64% were females
of 65 years or over; and
33% were males; and
39% were females
of 75 years and over.

but only one female reached the nineties.

Pneumoconiosis was a contributory cause in seven of the male deaths whose ages ranged from 55 to 83 years.

Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

Ammanford

Carmarthenshire

England and
Wales

17.60

13.66

11.5

CANCER.

There was an increase in the deaths from cancer compared with last year, but only one male died of cancer of the lung or bronchus.

	35 - 45		45 - 55		55 - 65		65 - 75		75 over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lung									1	
Stomach			2		2	2	1			1
Colon & Rectum						1	1	2	1	1
Uterus		1				1				
Breast				1			1	1		
Genito-urinary, Prostate ...							1		1	
Other Sites ...						2	1	1		1
Total ...		1	2	1	2	6	5	4	3	3

Rate per 1,000 Population :—

Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
4.32	2.25	2.2

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

The only notifications received during 1965 were for 24 cases of Measles.

CLASSIFICATION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Ammanford		Carmarthenshire	
	1964	1965	1964	1965
Measles	6	24	844	623
Scarlet Fever	0	0	28	11
Whooping Cough	0	0	108	43
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	19	0	110	108
Food Poisoning	0	0	1	6

IMMUNISATION

For the nineteenth year in succession no Diphtheria occurred in the Area. However, a few cases continue to occur in the country, so it is possible for the disease to recur in this area, if the level of immunity is not maintained by immunisation. Parents should ensure that their babies and young children are protected by inoculation. This can be obtained from the Family Doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinic, held weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

During the past year, most of those immunised received the triple injection protecting them against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough.

Those immunised were :—

Under 5 years :

Triple inoculations	83
Immunised against Diphtheria and Tetanus	1
Whooping Cough — aged 5 - 14	1
Booster Triples	16
Booster Diphtheria/Tetanus	2
	<hr/>
	103

VACCINATIONS

Smallpox — Vaccinations against Smallpox were performed by the Family Doctors and the Infant Welfare Clinic. The majority were done at about eighteen months. Separate figures for the area are not available but the total for the whole County are :—

Age at date of Vaccination	Number Vaccinated	Number Revaccinated
Under 1	162	—
1	554	—
2 - 4	142	23
5 - 14	7	46
15 or over	18	253

B.C.G. Vaccinations — Separate figures for this area not available. The figures for the whole County are :—

	Contact Scheme	School Children
Skin Tested	239	1,127
Found Negative	149	925
Vaccinated	137	925

Poliomyelitis — Vaccination Whole County
Vaccination with Oral Vaccine (Sabin)

Age Group	Number of persons who received
	3 doses of Oral Vaccine
Children born 1965	161
Children born 1964	1,006
Children born 1963	234
Children born 1962	137
Those born 1958 - 61	325
Others	97
Total	1,960

Number of persons given a reinforcing dose of
Oral Vaccine ... 44.

TUBERCULOSIS

Only one new case was notified during the year, a female suffering from non-respiratory disease.

There were four deaths from the disease — 2 males, aged 75 and 83, and two females, aged 56 and 66 years — all suffered from respiratory tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis Rates :—

		Case Rates	Death Rates
A.U.D.C.	Resp.	0.0	0.65
	Non. Resp.	0.16	0.0
C.C.C.	Resp.	0.26	0.05
	Non. Resp.	0.07	0.02

A Mass Radiography Van — Unit " J " was stationed in Ammanford on alternate Wednesdays throughout the year — outside the Old Age Pensioners' Hall in Quay Street. The attendances compared favourably with similar arrangements in other parts of the County, so the visits are being continued in 1966. Two sessions are now held at each visit, 10 - 12-30 a.m. and 2 - 6-30 p.m. A total of 1,511 persons were examined during 1965, at the twenty four sessions held with an average of 63 per visit. Thirty two or just over 2% of those examined were referred for further investigation to Chest Clinics. Some had been referred by their Family Doctor, but the majority were general population volunteers.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

A small group of the Overseas Students attending a Social Science Course at Swansea University, spent three weeks at Ammanford prior to commencing their studies. I gave them a talk on Public Health.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ante-Natal Clinic — Weekly on Thursday mornings
At High Street Clinic.

Post-Natal Clinic — Alternate Thursday afternoons
At High Street Clinic.

Infant Welfare — Weekly, Tuesday afternoons
At High Street Clinic.

Orthopaedic — Monday (morning and afternoon)
At High Street Clinic.

Chest Clinic — At the Amman Valley Hospital
Outpatients Department on Fridays.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

The national Welfare Foods are now distributed at the Infant Welfare Clinic every Tuesday afternoon, from 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.

MIDWIVES

There are two qualified midwives practising in the area.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

A County Ambulance and Car are situated at the Ambulance Station in High Street.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1965

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Walters and Gentlemen,

I commenced my duties on the 1st March, 1965, in a new Town Hall. The year was mainly taken up with becoming familiar with the public health circumstances of the Area and organising a new office.

My report of the public health circumstances in the Ammanford Urban District in the Year ending 31st December, 1965, is as follows.

WATER SUPPLY

The supply and distribution of water in the Urban District is controlled by the Loughor Joint Water Board. All houses are connected to the distribution mains owned by the Board.

Seven new pressure filters were provided during the year making a total of seventeen filters provided in the treatment plant allowing for improved filtration of the water supply. The water is extracted from the River Loughor near its source, filtered and chlorinated before passing into the distribution mains.

The water has a ph of of 7.54 and a fluorine content of .072 parts per million.

Four bacteriological samples of water were submitted for analysis, all samples were found to be satisfactory. The water has a hardness of 97 parts per million and is classified as moderately soft to slightly hard. It is slightly alkaline in reaction and it will have little or no aggression action on metals when cold. The Fluorine content of the water is .072 parts per million. The recommended amount required in the water supply to improve dental health is one part per million. The Ammanford Water contains 1/14th of the recommended content of Fluorine. The present supply is suitable and sufficient for the foreseeable future, but the Secretary of State for Wales has decided to make the West Glamorgan Water Board Order to establish a Joint Water Board comprising of the County Borough of Swansea, the Borough of Neath and Port Talbot, the Urban District of Glyncorrwg, Llwchwr, the rural districts of Ystradgynlais, Gower, Neath and Pontardawe, and the parish of Ystradfellte. He intends at an appropriate time to initiate a Statutory procedure to bring about under compulsory

wers, the establishment of a Joint Water Board covering Carmarthenshire and West Glamorgan. The estimated time of the formation of the larger Joint Board was not before 1968. Ammanford Urban District Council would be included in this larger Joint Water Board.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Trunk Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works are controlled by the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. Secondary Public Sewers providing connections to premises in the Urban District are controlled and maintained by the Urban District Council.

Swabs of Sewer — a query Paro typhoid case which was not confirmed, resulted in swabs being taken of the sewer invert at the junction of Wernolau Road and Maesquarre Road and the junction of Pontamman Road and Maesquarre and the lengths leading to the Storm Water Overflow to the River Amman at this junction. The Swabs were found to be Negative of Typhoid and Paro Typhoid organisms. The construction of new drains and connections to Sewers are controlled and inspected by the Public Health Department. Thirty one inspections were carried out during the year.

CONNECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC SEWERS IN THE AMMANFORD URBAN DISTRICT AREA

Number of Houses connected to Public Sewers ...	2,186
Houses draining to Septic Tanks which could be connected to Sewers	1
Houses draining to Septic Tanks which are below the invert level of Public Sewers	2

REFUSE COLLECTION

House Refuse — The House Refuse collected from all premises twice weekly by means of a side loader refuse lorry and tipped at Gelligwaerdi and Pantyffynnon Refuse Tips.

Trade Refuse — in the form of cardboard and waste paper, is collected from trade premises on Monday of each week and burned on the Pantyffynnon Tip. Other Trade Refuse is removed by the traders in their own vehicles to the Pantyffynnon Refuse Tip and buried under house Refuse.

Refuse tips are levelled by machine regularly and covered by spoil which comes available from time to time, and by contents of road gulleys deposited in Pantyffynnon. The tips are sprayed with insecticide to control the breeding

of flies, crickets and other insects. These tips are all treated monthly to control rodent infestation. Care has been taken to see that the Refuse Tips are enclosed with suitable fencing to prevent farm animals having access to the waste in the refuse tips, and complying with the Diseases of Animals Act 1950, and the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957.

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Number of visits	...	...	...	107
Number of revisits	...	...	...	159
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	10
Abatement Notices served	...	...	...	5
Houses repaired	...	...	...	8

HOUSING ACT 1957

Houses demolished	...	...	...	2
Families rehoused	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSING ACT 1964

No action was taken under this Act during the year. The application for Improvement Grants are not received by the Health Department. If this Act is to be implemented co-ordination between departments will be necessary.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

No Caravan Sites are licensed in the Urban District.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

No complaints were received under the above Act.

The amount of air pollution due to smoke from Domestic and Industrial Chimneys is negligible as the solid fuel used is anthracite coal which is for all practical purposes a smokeless fuel. The coal being mined in the Amman Valley.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is one paddling pool in the Public Park which was not used during the year due to the need of certain maintenance works. Water for this pool is supplied directly from the distribution water mains owned by the Loughor Joint Water Board.

There are no swimming baths in the Urban District. It is impossible to discourage children from bathing in the local rivers on hot summer days. Storm water overflow manholes constructed on the Trunk Sewers discharge storm water from these sewers directly into the rivers, this is

ulated sufficiently to satisfy the River Board and the fishes but it contains crude sewage and possible pathogenic organism. Weil's Disease from rat contaminated water is another danger.

The provision of a Public Swimming Pool properly constructed and maintained would be the only effective discouragement to the use of the rivers.

SCHOOLS

There are Five Local Education Authority schools, and one private Commercial School in the District.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

There are three places of Public Entertainment in Ammanford.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council has provided five ladies and Six Gentlemen's Public Conveniences. These are inspected and cleaned twice daily.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The following tinned food was examined, found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered for effective disposal.

Tinned Meat	...	...	178 lbs.	0 ozs.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	486 lbs.	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	18 lbs.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	45 lbs.	0 ozs.
Tinned Soup	...	...	3 lbs.	3 ozs.
Tinned Spaghetti	...	...	2 lbs.	0 ozs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	13 $\frac{3}{4}$ pints	
Frozen Chickens	...	...	19 lbs.	14 ozs.

The above was collected under supervision by the Council Refuse lorry and buried in the Refuse tip.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Food premises in the Ammanford Urban District :—

				Number	Inspection
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	8	16
Grocer and Provision Shops	...	...	...	32	32
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	7	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	5	5
Public Houses	...	...	...	13	13
Clubs and Factory Canteens	...	...	...	10	10
Green Grocers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	5	5
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	18	36

THE ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC.) REGULATIONS 1957 AND 1963

Two premises are used for the manufacture of ice-cream. A complete cold mix is used in both instances.

Six samples of Manufactured Ice-cream submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen with the following Grading :—

2 samples	...	Grade 1.
1 sample	...	Grade 2.
3 samples	...	Grade 4.

The manufacture of ice-cream in the premises with a consttient Grade 4 voluntarily discontinued to manufacture pending the examination or renewal of equipment.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1963 AND (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959.

Number of Distriptions of Untreated Milk —

4 Samples taken 10

Number of Distribution of Pasteurised Milk —

9 Samples taken 15

The samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen to receive the Methylene Blue Test and the Pasteurised Milk to receive the Phosphatase Test. One untreated milk sample failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test: the producer/Retailer was informed.

THE MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS 1963

There is one Private Slaughterhouse licensed in the Urban District.

129 Visits were made to the above Slaughterhouse to inspect the following number of carcasses and offal :—

Cattle	...	...	...	128
Pigs	...	...	...	501
Lambs	...	...	...	290

No charge is made for the inspection of these carcasses. A 100% inspection of all meat carcasses and edible offal was made.

All the carcasses passed fit for human consumption are marked with an approved stamp containing the name of the Council and my number as the Officer carrying out the inspection.

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATE

The Council Estates total 566 Housing Units. 2
Visits were made during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

One Rodent Operator is employed by the Ammanford Council.

207 Houses and 73 other premises were treated for rodent infestation during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities ...	9	9	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority ...	40	20	Nil	Nil

G. M. HERBERT, Medical Officer of Health.
W. DAVIES, Public Health Inspector.



